Appl. No. 09/550,219
BLD920000003US1/(ibmn009-0519)
Amdt. Dated: April 25, 2007
Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2005

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 6, 2005, has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1, 18, 25, 30 and 31 have been amended. Claims 1-31 are pending.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-8, 10-11, 13-15, 18-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Niwa (U.S. Patent No. 5,371,873).

On page 9 of the Office Action, claims 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Niwa.

On page 10 of the Office Action, claims 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Niwa in view of Popelka (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,883).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Applicants claim a method for increasing print job throughput in printer spooling by "writing the print data associated with the print job to a storage device, reading the print data associated with the print job from the storage device concurrently with the writing of the print data associated with the print job to the storage device and printing the print data associated with the print job that is read from the storage device concurrently while print data associated with the print job is being written to the storage device.."

More specifically, Applicants' invention requires "reading the print data associated with the print job from the storage device concurrently with the writing of the print data associated with the print job to the storage device." In contrast Niwa specifically describes the processing of data for printing by first storing data in a storage area, and THEN printing the stored information. According to Niwa, CPU 101 receives a data name pattern in the received command, and registers it for buffer-and-print in the storage unit 21 of the laser beam printer 1. After registering the buffer-and-print command, data which is supplied from the host computer 2 and

which is to be written in the data name matching the registered pattern is temporarily written into the storage unit 21 of the laser beam printer 1 and is then printed.

Accordingly, the data is not printed until data for the print job is stored in the storage area. Moreover, according to Niwa, the print job may not be printed until the data is stored in the storage area. Rather, Niwa states that data which is supplied from the host computer 2 with the data name that matches the registered pattern is written into the storage unit 21 of the laser beam printer 1, and is then printed automatically. Thus, the printing occurs automatically, but not until the data to be printed is written into the storage unit 21.

In addition, Applicants' invention requires "printing the print data associated with the print job that is read from the storage device concurrently while print data associated with the print job is being written to the storage device." Because Niwa does not read data associated with a print job from a storage area concurrently with writing of data associated with a print job to a storage area, Niwa cannot print data associated with the print job that is read from the storage device concurrently while print data associated with the print job is being written to the storage device. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over Niwa.

Popelka fails to remedy the deficiencies of Niwa. Popelka focuses on a "processing system with dynamically allocatable buffer memory." Popelka discusses a write buffer 230 where "concurrent streams of data can be supported in and out of the write buffer 230," column 11, lines 60-61. Popelka does not discuss concurrently reading and writing data associated with a print job, however. Therefore, Popelka does not teach, disclose or suggest "reading the print data from the storage device concurrently with the writing of the print data to the storage device"

Niwa and Popelka, alone or in combination, fail to teach, disclose or suggest all of the elements recited in the independent claims of Applicants' application. Accordingly, applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2-17, 19-24 and 26-29 are also patentable over the references, because they incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claims 1, 18 and 25. Further dependent claims 2-17, 19-24 and 26-29 recite additional novel elements and limitations. Applicants reserve the right to argue independently the patentability of these additional novel aspects. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-17, 19-24 and 26-29 are patentable over the cited references.

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicant, David W. Lynch, at 423-757-0264.

Respectfully submitted,

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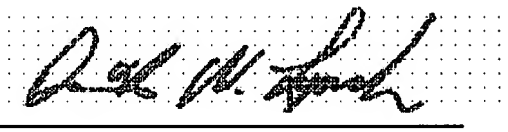
By: 

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